

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/645,401

Applicant(s)

HORIGUCHI ET AL.

Examiner

Pramila Parthasarathy

Art Unit

2136

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 8/01/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 19-22.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |


AYAZ SHEIKH

SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114.

2. Applicant's submission filed on August 01, 2005 has been entered and made of record.

Response to Arguments

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 19 – 22 are allowed.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The Admitted prior art Doggett et al. U.S. Patent 5,677,955, hereafter "Doggett", disclose an electronic instrument that may include digital representation of (a) payment instruction, (b) the identity of the payer (c) the identity of the payee, and (d) the identity of the funds-holding

institution and further discloses that the digital representation of a verifiable signature of the payer may also be appended to the electronic instrument.

Doggett further discloses an electronic payment instrument comprising printing a paper version of the electronic payment instrument with digital signatures and digital certificates by an issuing bank of the authenticity of an account or account holder to which the instrument relates, passing the paper version through the check clearing system to the issuing bank, at the issuing bank electronically verifying the digital version based on the signatures and the certificates.

However, the admitted prior art does not disclose, teach or suggest "a certificate paper-accommodating part which accommodates certificates made of sheet-shaped mediums and comprising an attached IC chip which stores first information".

The present invention provides an apparatus for issuing a certificate includes a certificate paper-accommodating part which accommodates certificates comprising an attached IC chip which stores first information, and a printing part which prints second information and a digital signature on the surface of the certificates. Thus, the present invention prevents counterfeiting the certificate as the information is recorded in the IC chip that is attached to the certificate.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

6. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with John R. Mattingly, registration number 30,293 on October 11, 2005.

IN THE CLAIMS:

1 – 18. (Canceled)

19. (Amended) An apparatus for issuing a certificate comprising:

a certificate paper-accommodating part which accommodates certificates made of sheet-shaped mediums and comprising an attached IC chip which stores first information ; and

a printing part which prints second information and a digital signature on a surface of the certificates,

wherein the digital signature is generated form the first information and the second information.

20. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 19,

wherein the digital signature is generated using ~~RSA~~ from the first information and the second information using RSA public key encryption.

21. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 19,

wherein the digital signature is a hashed sum of the first information and the second information using RSA public key encryption.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Pramila Parthasarathy whose telephone number is 571-272-3866. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday – Thursday 8:00a.m. To 3:00p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on 571-232-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Pramila Parthasarathy

October 12, 2005.


AYAZ SHEIKH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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